

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for service gap analysis, the method comprising:

receiving a date range from a user;

identifying at least one service plan that is valid within the date range based on input from the user;

electronically determining the expected number of services within the ~~time period~~ date range by performing a calculation based on information included in the at least one service plan; and

electronically identifying at least one encounter associated with the service plan occurring within the date range by accessing a storage medium readable by a computer.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the service plan is an individual education plan used in complying with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

for each service plan, comparing the expected number of services with the number of identified encounters for the service plan.

4. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein a result is produced for each service plan, the result includes a number indicating the shortfall or surplus of encounters for the service plan.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

comparing the expected number of services for all identified service plans with the number of identified encounters for all identified service plans.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein a result is produced for identified service plans, the result includes a number indicating the shortfall or surplus of encounters for all identified service plans.
7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the date range is divided into at least one time period.
8. (Original) The method of claim 7, further comprising
for each time period and each service plan, comparing the expected number of services within the time period with the number of identified encounters for the service plan within the time period.
9. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein a result is produced for each time period and each service plan, the result including a number indicating the shortfall or surplus of encounters for the service plan within the time period.
10. (Original) The method of claim 7, further comprising:
for each time period, comparing the expected number of services for all identified service plans with the number of identified encounters for all identified service plans.
11. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein a result is produced for all identified service plans for each time period, the result including a number indicating the shortfall or surplus of encounters for all identified service plans within the time period.
12. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one identified encounter for a service plan includes each encounter that occurred after the service plan terminated.
13. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein each of the at least one identified encounter is associated with a service that was provided or attempted.

14. (Currently Amended) A method for entering encounter information into a storage system, the method comprising:

receiving information describing a service encounter from a user, the received information including an encounter type and the duration of the encounter; and

storing information describing the service encounter in an electronic storage medium readable on a computer, the stored information including the encounter type and the duration of the encounter;

wherein the stored information is associated with a service plan, an individual receiving the service, and a service provider.

15. (Original) The method of Claim 14, wherein the received information further includes a service plan, an individual receiving the service, and a service provider.

16. (Original) The method of Claim 14, wherein the stored information further includes a service plan, an individual receiving the service, and a service provider.

17. (Original) The method of Claim 14, wherein the encounter type specifies one selected from a group consisting of services provided, attempted services, and missed services.

18. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein the stored information further includes a result of the encounter

19. (Currently Amended) A system for assisting a management entity with compliance with a management scheme, the management scheme including a plurality of requirements, the system comprising:

means for receiving a date range from a user;

means for identifying one or more service plans that are valid within the date range, based on input from the user;

means for electronically determining the expected number of services within the date range by performing a calculation based on information included in the at least one service plan; and

means for electronically identifying at least one encounter associated with the service plan occurring within the date range by accessing a storage medium readable by a computer.

20. (Original) A system for assisting a management entity with compliance with a service plan, the management scheme including a plurality of requirements, the system comprising:

a processor;

a user interface functioning via the processor; and

a repository accessible by the processor;

wherein a date range is received via the user interface and stored in the repository;

wherein at least one service plan that is valid within the date range is identified via the processor;

wherein the expected number of services within the time period is determined via the processor; and

wherein, one or more encounters associated with the service plan occurring within the date range is identified via the processor.

21. (Original) The system of Claim 20, wherein the processor is housed on a terminal.

22. (Original) The system of Claim 21, wherein the terminal is selected from a group consisting of a personal computer, a minicomputer, a main frame computer, a microcomputer, a hand held device, and a telephonic device.
23. (Original) The system of Claim 20, wherein the processor is housed on a server.
24. (Original) The system of Claim 23, wherein the server is selected from a group consisting of a personal computer, a minicomputer, a microcomputer, and a main frame computer.
25. (Original) The system of Claim 23, wherein the server is coupled to a network.
26. (Original) The system of Claim 25, wherein the network is the Internet.
27. (Original) The system of Claim 25, wherein the server is coupled to the network via a coupling.
28. (Original) The system of Claim 27, wherein the coupling is selected from a group consisting of a wired connection, a wireless connection, and a fiberoptic connection.
29. (Original) The system of Claim 20, wherein the repository is housed on a server.
30. (Original) The system of Claim 29, wherein the server is coupled to a network.
31. (Original) A computer program product comprising a computer usable medium having control logic stored therein for causing a computer to run a service gap analysis, the control logic comprising:

first computer readable program code means identifying at least one service plan that is valid within the date range;

second computer readable program code means for determining the expected number of services within the time period; and

third computer readable program code means for identifying at least one encounter associated with the service plan occurring within the date range.

32. (New) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

electronically determining the expected duration of services within the date range by performing a calculation based on information included in the at least one service plan; and

electronically determining the number and duration of identified encounters by performing a calculation based on information associated with the identified encounters.

33. (New) The method of claim 32, further comprising:

electronically converting the expected number and duration of services and the number and duration of identified encounters to a common unit of measurement; and

comparing the expected number and duration of services and the number and duration of identified encounters to determine the variance between them.

34. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein electronically determining the expected number of services comprises:

factoring in the number of available days for service based on a calendar and based on any identified gaps in service.

35. (New) The method of claim 34, wherein the calendar is a school calendar.

36. (New) The method of claim 19, further comprising:

means for electronically determining the expected duration of services within the date range by performing a calculation based on information included in the at least one service plan; and

means for electronically determining the number and duration of identified encounters by performing a calculation based on information associated with the identified encounters.

37. (New) The method of claim 36, further comprising:

means for electronically converting the expected number and duration of services and the number and duration of identified encounters to a common unit of measurement; and

means for comparing the expected number and duration of services and the number and duration of identified encounters to determine the variance between them.

38. (New) The method of claim 19, wherein electronically determining the expected number of services comprises:

factoring in the number of available days for service based on a calendar and based on any identified gaps in service.

39. (New) The method of claim 38, wherein the calendar is a school calendar.